



The Idaho Department of Commerce recently hosted fourteen journalists from China, Taiwan, Switzerland, Austria, Japan, Korea and Kuwait to learn about Idaho's economy, quality of life and tourist attractions.

International journalists learn about Idaho's energy economy

By Marilyn Whitney, *INL Communications & Governmental Affairs*

Journalists from China, Taiwan, Switzerland, Austria, Japan, Korea and Kuwait visited Idaho recently to learn about the Gem state's economy, quality of life and tourist attractions. The group of 14 represented newspapers, magazines, radio, television and the blogosphere.

Idaho National Laboratory helped sponsor the week-long tour, which was hosted by the Idaho Department of Commerce and supported by the U. S. State Department.

As part of the tour's focus on Idaho's energy and technology industries, INL Communications and Governmental Affairs Director Amy Lientz presented and answered questions on the outlook for nuclear energy both globally and in Idaho.

Dr. Harold Blackman, director of INL's [Center for Advanced Energy Studies](#) also spoke to the group about its focus on enhancing the education pipeline and the laboratory's research partnerships with state universities.

"The journalists were very intrigued by the depth of the work conducted at INL," said Julie Howard, marketing specialist for the Idaho Department of Commerce.

So far, nearly 20 stories about Idaho have been published and broadcast around the world, including a full-page spread about Idaho in the Shanghai Morning Post in early June and a series on China Radio International (CRI).



The tour, which was supported by the U. S. State Department, took visitors to Boise, Twin Falls and Sun Valley, Idaho.



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Radio is a popular medium in China, and CRI is the largest radio outlet in that country. Among the stories filed by Wang Shanshan, Washington Bureau Chief for CRI, was a piece on INL. "Another spring for nuclear energy in the U.S." highlighted the lab's pioneering role in the development of nuclear power and the focus on building new nuclear energy capabilities in the United States.

The tour included a briefing on Idaho Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter's [Project 60](#) initiative to grow Idaho's gross domestic product from \$51.5 billion to \$60 billion. Participants also saw a presentation on future state energy initiatives from Paul Kjellander, chief for [Idaho's Office of Energy Resources](#).

Specific energy topics explored in addition to nuclear included wind and geothermal. The visitors met with Walter Snyder, Boise State University professor and director of the National Geothermal Data System, a consortium developing a comprehensive Web-based system to support the discovery, development and sustainability of [geothermal resources](#) in the U.S.. Participants also heard from Dan Kunz, CEO of [U.S. Geothermal Inc.](#)

To see a direct application of geothermal firsthand, the group traveled to Hagerman, Idaho, where they toured [Fish Breeders Inc.](#), a small business that uses geothermal runoff waters to raise tropical fish, sturgeon and tilapia.

At a brief stop at the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls, Instructional Dean of Technical Education Todd Schwartz presented an overview of [CSI's wind technician program](#).

In Sun Valley, Idaho, the visitors learned about the area's history and the economic impact of tourism in Idaho. They also met with energy and technology industry representatives including Nordic Windpower, Ridgeline Energy, AREVA, GoNano and Premier Technology, as well as with economic development groups Southern [Idaho Economic Development Organization](#), [Bannock Development](#) and [Grow Idaho Falls](#).

Boise area tour highlights included [Motive Power Inc.](#), where the group heard about green energy in locomotive manufacturing, [Sloan Security](#) and its use of solar technology for remote applications, and [Industrial Insulation Systems](#), which uses portable cryogenic shipping systems and solar systems.

Read coverage of the event from the [Idaho Statesman](#), [AlHurra TV](#), [China Radio International](#), and three broadcast updates to [International Community Radio Tape](#): [May 12](#), [May 14](#), [May 17](#).

[Feature Archive](#)



***INL Communications & Governmental Affairs
Director Amy Lientz discussed the outlook for
nuclear energy both globally and in Idaho.***